

CLAIMS**Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)**

Claim 6 (Amended). A radio mobile telecommunications system comprises a base transceiver station arranged to manage a plurality of mobile systems within at least one telecommunications cell; the base transceiver station having means to provide an acquisition indication channel by which a first acknowledgement signal is sent to indicate that the strength of the preamble signals of increasing strength sent by a mobile system to the base transceiver station has reached a predetermined acceptable level; characterized in that said first acknowledgement signal is arranged to indicate in addition that the mobile system must not send a message signal since resources at said base transceiver station are currently unavailable to process said message signal, but must send a further preamble at the same acceptable strength level; and the base transceiver station having means to send a further acknowledgement signal in response to the further preamble indicating that the mobile system is permitted to send the message signal.

Claim 7 (Amended). A method of operating a radio base transceiver station comprising:-

- receiving spaced preambles of increasing strength from a mobile station;
- sending a preamble acknowledgement signal on an acquisition indication channel when a preamble reaches an acceptable strength wherein the preamble acknowledgement signal further indicates that the mobile system is not permitted to send its message signal since resources at said base transceiver station are currently unavailable to process said message signal, but must send a further preamble at the same acceptable strength level;

- receiving said further preamble from the mobile station;
- sending a preamble acknowledgement signal of a second type indicating that the mobile station is permitted to send its message signal; and
- receiving the message signal from the mobile station.